



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:
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Agency collects homelessness data

Iowa Finance Authority coordinates “point-in-time” study

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DES MOINES – The Iowa Finance Authority will lead a statewide point-in-time study of homelessness in Iowa Tuesday. Hundreds of shelters and service providers across the state are expected to complete surveys counting the number of people in their facilities or programs.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires jurisdictions receiving its Continuum of Care funding to collect “point-in-time” data each year during the last week in January. This year, the Iowa Council on Homelessness decided to set the date of January 25, 2005 to collect the data on a statewide basis.

“The data we collect will be a very good indicator of need, both at the local level and throughout the state,” said Lyle Schwery, IFA’s coordinator of homeless programs.

IFA issued point-in-time survey instruments to shelters and service providers in December and conducted training on the survey earlier this month. IFA will compile and post the results.

The Iowa Council on Homelessness was created by executive order in 2003, with IFA identified as the lead agency for coordinating council activities. Membership on the council includes 12 state agencies and 18 representatives of nonprofit service providers, the faith community, advocacy groups and consumers from across Iowa.

IFA is the state’s affordable housing agency. More information about IFA and the Iowa Council on Homelessness is available at IFA’s website at www.ifahome.com or by calling IFA at 800/432-7230.

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